

CLAIMS

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2. (Amended) An image forming apparatus including thermal fixing means having a fixing roller and heating means for heating said fixing roller, temperature detecting means for detecting a temperature of said fixing roller, and temperature control means for controlling power supplied to said heating means and controlling the temperature of said fixing roller based on a signal from said temperature detecting means, characterized by comprising:

number of sheets storing means for storing the number of passing sheets upon previous continuous-image-formation;

counter means for counting a passing time from the end time of the image formation;

control means for, upon this continuous-image-formation, based on the number of sheets stored by said number of sheets storing means and the time counted by said counter means, limiting the number of sheets image-formed at a first copying speed, at which the number of passing sheets per unit time is large, to a predetermined number of sheets, and for, when the number of sheets is over the limited number of sheets, changing said first copying speed to a second copying speed at which the number of passing sheets per unit time is small; and

storing means for previously storing said predetermined number of sheets in a table format so that as

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the number of passing sheets stored by said number of sheets storing means is smaller, said predetermined number of sheets is larger and, as the passing time counted by said counter means is longer, said predetermined number of sheets is larger,

in that said control means refers to said predetermined number of sheets stored in the table format by said storing means and changes the copying speed from said first copying speed to said second copying speed.

3. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 2, characterized in that said predetermined number of sheets is determined so that a difference of temperature of said fixing roller in the longitudinal direction is prevented from being out of an allowable predetermined temperature range, and the number of image formed sheets is larger as much as possible at said first copying speed.

4. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 2 or 3, characterized in that only single of said temperature detecting means or only single of said heating means is provided.

5. (Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 2 or 3, characterized in that said number of sheets storing means stores the number of passing sheets of a recorded material which passes through said thermal fixing means.

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